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BOROUGH OF WIDNES



# Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1952



BOROUGH OF WIDNES

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

### 1952

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH  
COMMITTEE.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health of Widnes for 1952, and I am happy to report that the health of the Borough compares very favourably with that of previous years.

The Birth rate showed a slight decrease, being 20.1 per 1,000 compared with 20.5 per 1,000 in 1951, but was still much higher than the rate for England and Wales, which was 15.3 per 1,000, which figures also showed a slight decrease of .2 per 1,000.

The crude death rate was also lower, being 10.5 per 1,000 compared with 11.4 per 1,000 in 1951 and comparing favourably with the death rate for England and Wales which was 11.3. Here again the trend in Widnes followed closely that for the whole country, the decrease in Widnes being .9 per 1,000 and for England and Wales 1.2 per 1,000.

I am happy to report that the substantial decrease in the infant mortality rate for 1951 has been maintained; the rate for 1952 being 34 per 1,000 live births compared with 36 in 1951 and 51 in 1950.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

The incidence of infectious disease was higher than during the previous year due to an increase in measles, whooping cough and scarlet fever. There were 773 cases of infectious disease notified compared with 613 cases during 1951. Notifications of pneumonia were considerably lower than for 1951. For the fourth year in succession there were no cases of diphtheria.

58 cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified compared with 68 cases the previous year. Deaths from this disease during the year numbered 18. There was 8 cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis and one death.

I am happy to report that there has again been a marked reduction in the number of deaths due to accidents of different kinds. Only six deaths belonging to Widnes occurred due to accidents within the Borough boundary. It is particularly interesting to note that no death is reported as a result of any happening in a factory or industrial establishment. A detailed summary can be found in the body of the report.

The work of the Sanitary Department has continued at a high level during the year and a greater number of inspections in relation to all aspects of the department's work has been carried out than during any previous year. Inspectors have made 11,256 visits compared with 8,137 visits made in 1951. There were 3,774 defects or nuisances discovered during the year. Particular attention was again paid to the supervision of food premises to ensure that all commodities were prepared, stored and sold in a hygienic manner. 869 visits were paid to these premises compared with 550 visits during 1951. In addition the department has continued to give assistance to the Widnes Hygienic Food Traders' Guild. A series of five illustrated lectures was given by the department and all Guild members and others interested in food hygiene were invited.

There is nothing to add to my observations in previous reports upon the unsatisfactory housing situation, an unsatisfactory situation which is shared with many other districts throughout the country.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Health Committee for their support and encouragement during the year, and also to the officials of the Corporation, in particular to Mr. E. F. Starkey, Chief Sanitary Inspector, for their assistance at all times.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. W. BUNTING,

Medical Officer of Health



## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough in acres	...	...	...	...	...	6,178
Population at Census, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	40,619
„ Estimated 1952	...	...	...	...	...	48,800
Density of Population (i.e. No. of persons per acre)	...					7.89
No. of Inhabited Houses (1931 Census)	...	...	...			8,641
No. of Inhabited Houses (End of 1952 according to rate book)						12,996
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£260,441
Sum represented by 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	...	£1,040

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## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Number of Births: Males 493, Females 489	...	...	982
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the population	...	...	20.1
Number of Deaths: Males 293, Females 218	...	...	511
Death-rate per 1,000 of the Population	Crude	...	10.5
	Adjusted		13.2
Excess of Birth over Deaths	...	...	471
Number of Deaths of Infants (under age of one year)	...		33
Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births	...	...	34
Deaths from Influenza	...	...	4
Death-rate from Influenza per 1,000 of Population	...		.08
Death-rate from Cancer	„	„	2.09
Death-rate from Phthisis	„	„	.36
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	...	...	—
Number of women dying in consequence of child birth—			
From Sepsis	...	...	—
Other Causes	...	...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1
Percentage of total Deaths occurring in Public Institutions	...	...	48.53

## ANALYSIS OF VITAL STATISTICS

### POPULATION—

The population returns since 1861 are given below :—

Year	Population	Inhabited houses	Average per house
1861	6,893	1,150	5.99
1871	14,359	2,519	5.66
1881	24,918	4,994	5.0
1891	30,011	5,121	5.86
1901	28,580	5,350	5.34
1911	31,544	6,102	5.16
1921	38,879	7,437	5.22
1931	40,619	8,534	4.63
Est. 1952	48,800	12,996	3.75

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for the year 1952 was 48,800. This is, therefore, an increase of 50 over the estimated population for 1951.

### BIRTHS—

	Total	Males	Females	
Legitimate ... ..	941	473	468	} Birth-rate (R.G.) 20.1
Illegitimate ... ..	41	20	21	
Birth-rate for England and Wales ... ..				15.3

### ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS—

The percentage of births, which were illegitimate, during each of the past 15 years is as follows:—

1938 .....	2.4 per cent.	1945 .....	9.8 per cent.
1939 .....	2.4 per cent.	1946 .....	7.0 per cent.
1940 .....	4.7 per cent.	1947 .....	4.7 per cent.
1941 .....	4.1 per cent.	1948 .....	4.5 per cent.
1942 .....	5.2 per cent.	1949 .....	4.3 per cent.
1943 .....	6.0 per cent.	1950 .....	4.5 per cent.
1944 .....	5.6 per cent.	1951 .....	5.1 per cent.
	1952 .....		4.1 per cent.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1952—

CAUSES OF DEATH	All ages	Under 1 year	1—5 years	5—15 years	15—25 years	25—45 years	45—65 years	65—75 years	Over 75 years
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	18	—	—	—	3	5	9	1	—
, (other forms)	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease ... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other infective and parastic diseases	5	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	—
Malignant Neoplasms—									
Stomach ... ..	12	—	—	—	—	1	2	5	4
Lung, Bronchus ... ..	31	—	—	—	1	2	17	9	2
Breast ... ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	3
Uterus ... ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	48	—	1	—	—	7	19	16	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Diabetes ... ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	55	—	—	1	—	4	13	18	19
Coronary disease, Angina ...	47	—	—	—	—	4	16	10	17
Hypertension with heart disease	16	—	—	—	—	—	3	9	4
Other heart diseases ... ..	88	—	—	—	—	—	13	24	51
Other circulatory diseases ...	22	1	—	—	—	1	7	8	5
Influenza ... ..	4	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—
Pneumonia ... ..	25	2	—	—	—	—	6	8	9
Bronchitis ... ..	30	3	—	—	—	4	7	8	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	4	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	13	—	—	—	—	—	6	3	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	3	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ...	6	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases ... ..	51	18	—	1	2	1	11	7	11
Motor Vehicle accidents ...	4	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
All other accidents ... ..	4	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—
Suicide ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Homicide and War ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	511	33	5	4	7	35	143	138	146

*DETAILS OF DEATHS DUE TO ACCIDENTS DURING 1952—*

The following is a summary of the deaths due to accident during 1952, indicating the ages of the deceased. There was again a satisfactory decrease, being 8 deaths compared with 13 in 1951 and 30 in 1950:—

CAUSE OF DEATHS	Under 1 yrs.	1—5 yrs.	5—15 yrs.	15—45 yrs.	45—65 yrs.	Over 65 yrs.	Total
Road traffic accidents ... ..	—	2	—	—	2	—	4
Falls ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Drowning ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Aircraft accident ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Totals in age groups...	—	2	1	1	3	1	8

The following is a summary of the deaths of persons belonging to Widnes, which occurred in institutions during the year 1952:—

Widnes Maternity Home (Infants 4) ... ..	4
Whiston County Hospital (Infants 21) ... ..	213
St. Helens Hospital ... ..	2
St. Helens Providence Hospital ... ..	2
St. Helens Isolation Hospital (Infants 1) ... ..	1
Warrington Infirmary ... ..	1
Warrington General Hospital ... ..	2
Rainhill Hospital ... ..	3
Liverpool Belmont Road Hospital ... ..	2
„ Walton Hospital ... ..	4
„ Broadgreen Hospital ... ..	1
„ Alder Hey Hospital (Infants 1) ... ..	2
„ Smithdown Road Hospital ... ..	1
„ St. Vincent's Hospice ... ..	1
„ St. Paul's Eye Hospital ... ..	1
Ormskirk County Hospital ... ..	1
Other hospitals ... ..	7
Total ... ..	248



The following table summarises the Vital Statistics of the Borough:—

	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality Total			Neo-natal	
	No. Regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. Regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. Regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	
Year	1952	982	20.1	511	10.5	25	25	Nil	Nil	33	34	23	23
Year	1951	1001	20.5	556	11.4	22	22	1	0.98	36	36	23	23
"	1950	1050	21.5	549	11.3	29	27	1	0.93	54	51	25	24
"	1949	1013	21.1	514	10.7	23	22	Nil	Nil	54	53	—	—
"	1948	1086	22.8	473	9.9	26	23	Nil	Nil	66	60	—	—
"	1947	1254	27.1	558	12.1	18	14	Nil	Nil	93	74	—	—
Ave	5 years 1947-1951	—	22.6	—	11.1	—	22	—	0.38	—	55	—	—

Adjusted live birth-rate (comparability factor 1.01) — 20.3 per 1,000  
death-rate (comparability factor 1.26) — 13.2 " "

The following statistics are taken from the Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health for the years 1922, 1932, and 1942 and are shown together with comparable data relating to the year under review.

	1952	1942	1932	1922
Estimated population ... ..	48,800	42,870	41,130	39,830
Birth rate per 1,000 of population	20.1	20.5	20.1	26.2
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of population	10.5	11.5	11.5	15.1
Infant Mortality per 1,000 births	34	70	74	83
Maternal Mortality per 1,000 births	Nil	2.21	5.80	3.13
Deaths from Measles ... ..	Nil	4	Nil	20
„ „ Whooping Cough	1	1	7	8
„ „ Diphtheria ... ..	Nil	4	3	7
„ „ Scarlet Fever ... ..	Nil	2	Nil	Nil
„ „ Resp. Tuberculosis...	18	25	42	43
„ „ Tuberculosis (Other forms) ... ..	1	3	13	9
Deaths under 65 years of age—				
percentage of total	44.62	—	70.18	77.65

#### INFANT MORTALITY

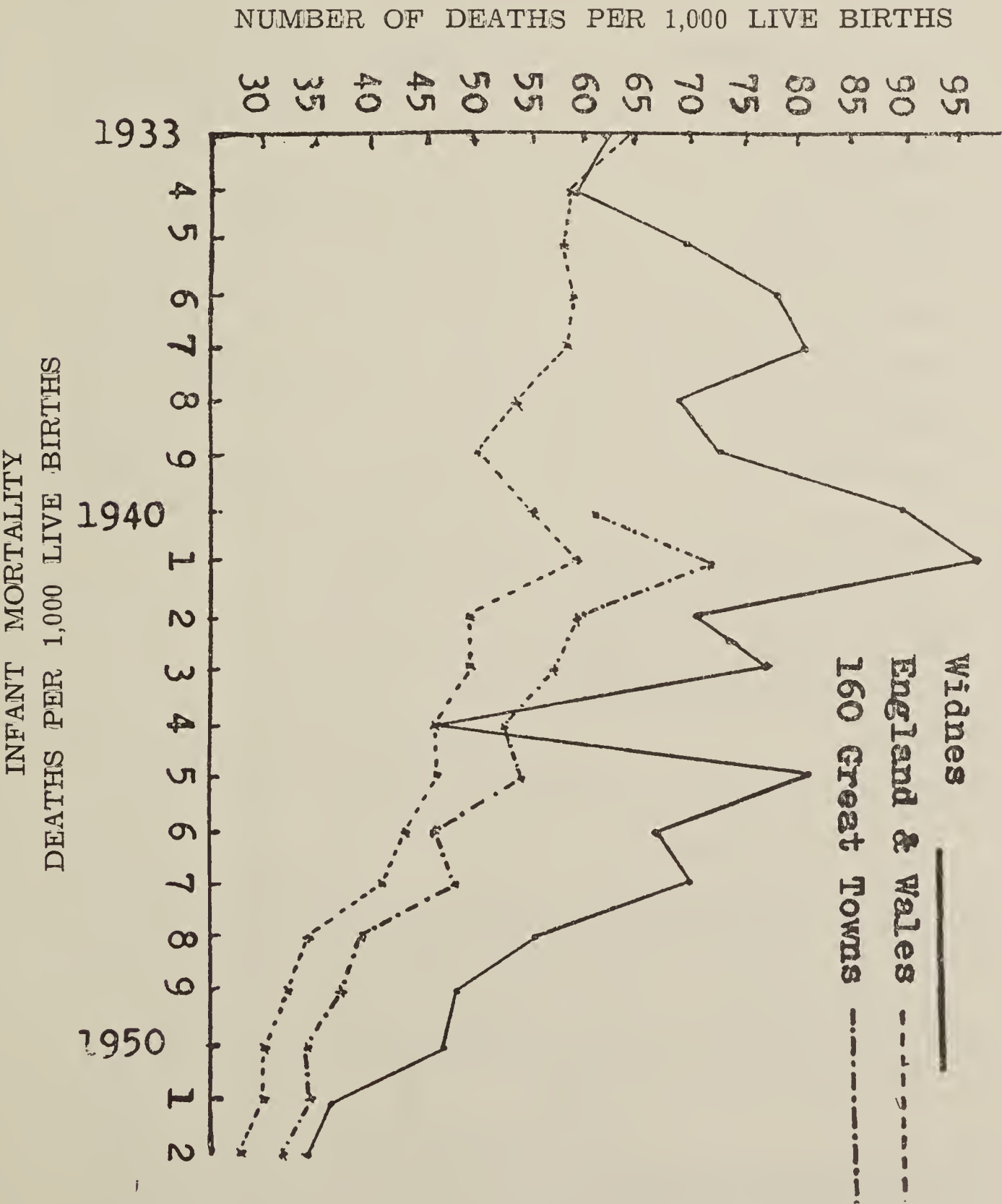
The causes of death of infants during 1952 are recorded in the following table:—

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
Congenital										
Malformations	3	1	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
Prematurity ... ..	9	1	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	10
Broncho Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Bronchitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
Diseases of Resp. System	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Diseases of Digestive System	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Atelectasis ... ..	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Asphyxia neonatorum ...	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Other diseases peculiar to early infancy	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Totals ... ..	19	3	1	—	23	2	6	2	—	33

It will be seen that the number of deaths among infants under one year was 33. This represents an infant mortality rate of 34 per 1,000 live births, which compares favourably with a rate of 55 per 1,000 live births for the preceding five year period.

This is the fifth year in succession in which there has been a reduction in the infant mortality rate.

It will be noted that as in previous years the chief group in the above table is one related to premature births. There were no deaths from Gastro Enteritis.



LABORATORY FACILITIES—

Bacteriological Examinations—

The number of specimens examined in 1952 was:—

Paratyphoid..... 114                      General..... 8

The number of bacteriological examinations carried out in 1951 was 42. The increased number of specimens submitted in respect of Paratyphoid resulted from routine investigation into the disease, of which there were two confirmed cases.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE  
(1) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR—

DISEASE				Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	159	102	—
Para-typhoid	...	...	...	2	2	1
Dysentery	...	...	...	2	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	2	—	—
Malaria	...	...	...	1	1	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	10	—	29 (all forms)
Erysipelas	...	...	...	6	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	408	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	176	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	3	3	—
Acute Polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	1	1	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	3	—	—
Tuberculosis—						
(a) Pulmonary	...	M	.....	30	—	11
	...	F	.....	28	—	7
	...	Total	...	58	—	18
(b) Non-Pulmonary	...	M	.....	4	—	1
	...	F	.....	4	—	—
	...	Total	...	8	—	1



(11) ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS—

NOTIFIABLE		CASES NOTIFIED									
		Total Cases at all Ages	Years								
			Under 1	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over
Scarlet Fever ... ..	159	—	11	50	83	14	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fever...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Measles ... ..	408	7	135	165	161	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	176	20	62	67	27	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia ...	10	1	2	—	1	1	—	2	3	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal inf....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis—											
Paralytic ... ..	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis—											
Infective ... ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post infectious...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia											
Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2
Malaria ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Resp. Tuberculosis											
M.	30	—	—	—	1	1	6	9	12	1	—
F.	28	1	1	—	—	2	11	11	2	—	—
Non-Resp. „ M.	4	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
F.	4	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	839	30	216	285	215	18	22	25	24	4	—

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—

There were no cases of ophthalmia neonatorum during the year.

SCARLET FEVER—

One hundred and fifty nine cases were notified during the year. The numbers of cases notified during the preceding five years were:

1947—88; 1948—99; 1949—150; 1950—95; 1951—89.

There were no deaths during the year and the cases were all of a mild type.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS—

There were three cases of poliomyelitis notified during the year. One of these cases was of a very mild nature, in the other two some paralysis remained.

## DIPHTHERIA—

The following table gives the incidence of this disease during the past 12 years:—

Year	No. of Cases	No. of Deaths	Year	No. of Cases	No. of Deaths
1941	160	9	1947	4	—
1942	95	4	1948	—	—
1943	30	2	1949	2	—
1944	23	—	1950	—	—
1945	14	—	1951	—	—
1946	19	—	1952	—	—

None of the fatal cases recorded in the above table had been immunised.

The low incidence of diphtheria in the Borough is directly attributable to the high percentage of children who are immunised against diphtheria. No deaths have been recorded in the Borough since 1943 and the last case notified was in 1949.

## TUBERCULOSIS—

The number of cases of Tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease during 1952 will be found in the following table:—

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
Under 1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
1-4	—	1	1	3	—	—	—	—
5-9	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
10-14	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-19	3	6	1	—	—	—	—	—
20-24	3	5	—	—	—	3	—	—
25-34	4	8	1	1	3	1	—	—
35-44	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-54	7	2	—	—	4	2	—	—
55-64	5	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
65 upwards	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	30	28	4	4	11	7	1	—
	58		8		18		1	

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths over notified was 4/18.

During the year two respiratory and nineteen non-respiratory cases were reported to have become quiescent and a case previously notified as pulmonary tuberculosis was not confirmed.

The following table gives the incidence of tuberculosis during the past 30 years:—

Annual Average	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	
	Case rate per 1,000 of population	Death rate per 1,000 of population	Case rate per 1,000 of population	Death rate per 1,000 of population
1922/1926 ...	1.65	0.98	1.3	0.20
1927/1931 ...	1.50	0.93	1.0	0.18
1932/1936 ...	1.02	0.70	0.78	0.22
1937/1941 ...	0.86	0.66	0.55	0.15
1942/1946 ...	0.98	0.64	0.52	0.10
1947/1951 ...	1.17	0.50	0.35	0.08
1952 ...	1.18	0.37	0.16	0.02

There was an all round decrease in case rate and death rate figures, both for respiratory and other forms of tuberculosis, over the previous year. Although there was a substantial decrease in cases of respiratory tuberculosis, the incidence remains high. Deaths from this disease however, together with cases and deaths from non-respiratory tuberculosis, have maintained a steady and continuous decline for some considerable number of years, and this is a cause of some satisfaction.

The Ministry of Health issued a statement in 1952 which stated that “since the war there have been important developments in the treatment of tuberculosis which bear promise of hastening the day when the disease will be brought under control. Two new drugs, streptomycin and para-amino salicylic acid, are proving powerful weapons against the tubercle bacillus. Better diagnosis, the increasing use of mass radiography to search for unsuspected cases in a community and so reduce the unknown reservoir of infection, the steady addition of beds for T.B. cases, the extension of home treatment, both before and after admission to sanatoria, and the improved co-ordination of all the anti-tuberculosis forces, are having a beneficial effect.”

Statistics begin to reflect the trend of these hopeful developments in that in 1950, deaths in Widnes from respiratory tuberculosis fell by 27 per cent and in 1951 and 1952 continued to decline. Better means of detection are preventing similar immediate reductions in case rates; a mass radiography team is, at the time of writing, carrying out an extensive survey in Widnes which will doubtless boost up the figures for 1953. The value of this early identification is, however, invaluable in our efforts to control the disease.

The Ministry of Health statement also dealt with the use in this country, within certain limitations and under controlled conditions of the vaccine known as B.C.G. It was not then certain that B.C.G. vaccination gave complete immunity against tuberculosis and only experience would show how far it was effective under conditions in this country. But there was little doubt that it reduced the risk and there was also some evidence that if a vaccinated person did subsequently contract the disease, the vaccination was likely to make it less severe. Vaccination was being offered, subject to certain individual medical tests, to all hospital nurses and medical students as a routine precautionary inoculation and for use by chest physicians with special knowledge and experience of tuberculosis who may wish to give the vaccine to children or other persons known to be in close contact with a T.B. sufferer.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### *WATER SUPPLY—*

The water supply of the Borough is obtained by pumping from deep wells at Stockswells, Netherley and Belle Vale stations, and an additional bulk supply (upland surface) from Liverpool Corporation.

Sixty samples of the raw water were examined by the Bacteriologist and seven by the Analyst. Of the water going into supply, where treatment is installed, one hundred and twenty nine samples were examined by the Bacteriologist and four by the Analyst. All these samples were reported to be highly satisfactory.

### *CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—*

There are 41 privy middens but they are situated in the rural parts of the Borough and cannot be converted owing to the absence of adequate sewers. There are thirteen waste closets in existence and it is calculated that 12,937 houses are provided with fresh water closets.

### *REFUSE REMOVAL—*

This work is carried out entirely by the Highways Department, for which purpose covered vehicles are used. There are 16 dry ashpits and 41 ashpits attached to privies. The remaining houses in the Borough are provided with portable bins.

### *SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT—*

A record of the work of the Sanitary Department is as follows:—

Defects or Nuisances: No. Discovered	...	3,774
No. abated	... ..	2,639
No. being dealt with		1,135
No. of Notices served—Informal	... ..	1,596
Statutory	... ..	526
No. of Legal Proceedings taken	... ..	82
No. of premises visited	... ..	11,256

Premises kept under observation	Number of Premises	Number of Inspections
Factories ... ..	189	129
Bakehouses ... ..	20	56
Slaughterhouses ... ..	—	—
Milkshops ... ..	124	160
Food Premises ... ..	201	869
Ice Cream Premises ... ..	99	110
Common Lodginghouses ... ..	5	65
Tents and Caravans ... ..	8	15
Visits to premises where cases of Infectious diseases have occurred	242	250
No. of premises disinfected after cases of Infectious Diseases ...	225	—

#### DISINFESTATION—

18 houses belonging to the Corporation and 87 private dwellings were treated during the year because of verminous infestation.

In addition householders are encouraged to carry out disinfestation and are supplied with suitable insecticides.

#### RODENT CONTROL—

Two whole-time rodent operatives were employed by the Local Authority and carried out their work to the formula of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. A summary of the work carried out during the period is appended.

Premises	Number treated	Pre- Bait applied (lbs.)	Polson Bait applied (lbs.)	Estimated Destruction Rats	Estimated Destruction Mice	Bodies found Rats	Bodies found Mice
Public Sewers	1520	126	21	420	—	10	—
Manholes							
Dwellinghouses	217	82	87	410	989	44	158
Other premises	117	247	152	1283	1074	180	221
Council Tips	2	87	59	560	—	165	—

During the year the department received 358 complaints; 162 were in respect of mice and 196 rats. The premises concerned were, for mice—16 factories, 22 shops, 108 dwellinghouses, 11 schools, 5 other premises. For rats: 2 tips, 28 factories, 11 schools, 10 shops, 130 dwellinghouses, 15 other premises.

A 100 per cent and a 10 per cent treatment of sewers were carried out during the year. The work was executed on a block system, taking each ward of the Borough separately.

#### *INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT—*

During the year every effort was made to reduce the amount of atmospheric pollution due to the emission of smoke from factories within the Borough. Close liaison was maintained during the year with H.M. Inspector of Alkali Works.

The average deposit for the whole of the Borough during 1952 is estimated at 240.37 tons per square mile. This is a decrease of 49.69 tons on the figures for the year 1951 when 290.06 tons per square mile was recorded.

Sulphur in the atmosphere is recorded by the lead peroxide method as milligrams of sulphur trioxide absorbed per day on 100 sq. cm. of exposed surface treated with lead peroxide. The daily average for 1952 was 1.51 milligrams. This is a decrease of 0.63 on the figure for 1951, which was 2.14 milligrams.

The lead peroxide apparatus is the simplest method for obtaining comparative figures of the deleterious matter in the atmosphere and provides an idea of the extent of attack on paintwork, stone and cement, curtains and similar materials which are affected by atmospheric pollution. The exposed surface is protected from the direct effect of the weather by a louvred cowl but is still open to air circulation, consequently the conditions are similar to those of many of the materials liable to atmospheric attack. Each month the porcelain cylinder carrying the lead peroxide is replaced by one with a freshly prepared surface, and the exposed material is analysed to determine the sulphur collected.

Monthly reports of the analysis of deposits and sulphur from the five stations within the Borough are made to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research of which this authority is a co-operating body. There are nineteen Lancashire towns who are co-operating bodies and whose figures for monthly deposits etc. appear regularly in the Bulletin of the D.S.I.R., and it is interesting to note that, taking an average over the year, there are nine of these towns with a heavier average deposit than Widnes.

The volumetric smoke and sulphur dioxide apparatus operates continuously at the Health Centre, drawing a metered volume of air first through a filter to remove suspended matter (smoke) and then through a washing device to collect the acid gases present. The filter is changed daily, and the amount of smoke measured from the stain produced. A daily estimation of the acid gases is made and calculated as sulphur dioxide.



*Measurement of Deposited Matter with the Deposit Gauge:—*

The amount of total solids in tons per square mile, and the average rainfall, during 1952, was as follows:—

Month	Health Centre	Liverpool Road	Crow Wood Hospital	Halebank	Farnworth	Average Rainfall inches
January	33.34	14.78	28.25	15.52	20.11	2.87
February	17.92	7.77	14.61	5.64	6.16	0.89
March	35.24	13.73	18.85	13.85	11.39	1.89
April	31.56	28.17	18.64	14.88	12.38	1.92
May	23.25	10.69	16.40	8.04	10.79	1.89
June	22.68	13.90	20.36	13.34	10.47	2.23
July	23.92	13.97	32.74	28.56	9.85	1.52
August	14.84	7.84	20.63	8.49	5.61	1.38
September	30.09	12.84	24.23	—	8.45	3.36
October	33.40	24.92	20.21	17.23	—	3.54
November	23.55	15.91	15.98	12.99	13.76	2.81
December	55.64	36.89	43.56	27.30	44.63	3.04
Monthly Average	29.2	16.78	22.85	15.08	13.96	2.28

*Measurement of Sulphur Dioxide with the Lead Peroxide Apparatus:*

The measurement in milligrams of SO<sub>3</sub> per day per 100 square centimetres of lead peroxide during 1952 was as follows:

Month	Health Centre	Liverpool Road	Crow Wood Hospital	Halebank	Farnworth
January	1.35	1.29	1.32	1.24	1.33
February	2.69	2.19	2.41	1.44	1.68
March	1.0	1.0	1.22	1.02	.99
April	1.76	1.48	1.23	1.02	1.04
May	1.92	1.68	1.18	1.15	.84
June	1.28	1.02	1.07	.51	.72
July	1.10	.85	.49	.55	.53
August	1.42	.80	1.04	.59	.66
September	1.23	.75	1.10	.71	.77
October	2.83	1.72	1.83	1.53	1.30
November	2.74	1.79	2.15	1.82	1.71
December	4.27	2.73	3.52	2.01	2.61
Monthly Average	1.97	1.46	1.55	1.13	1.18

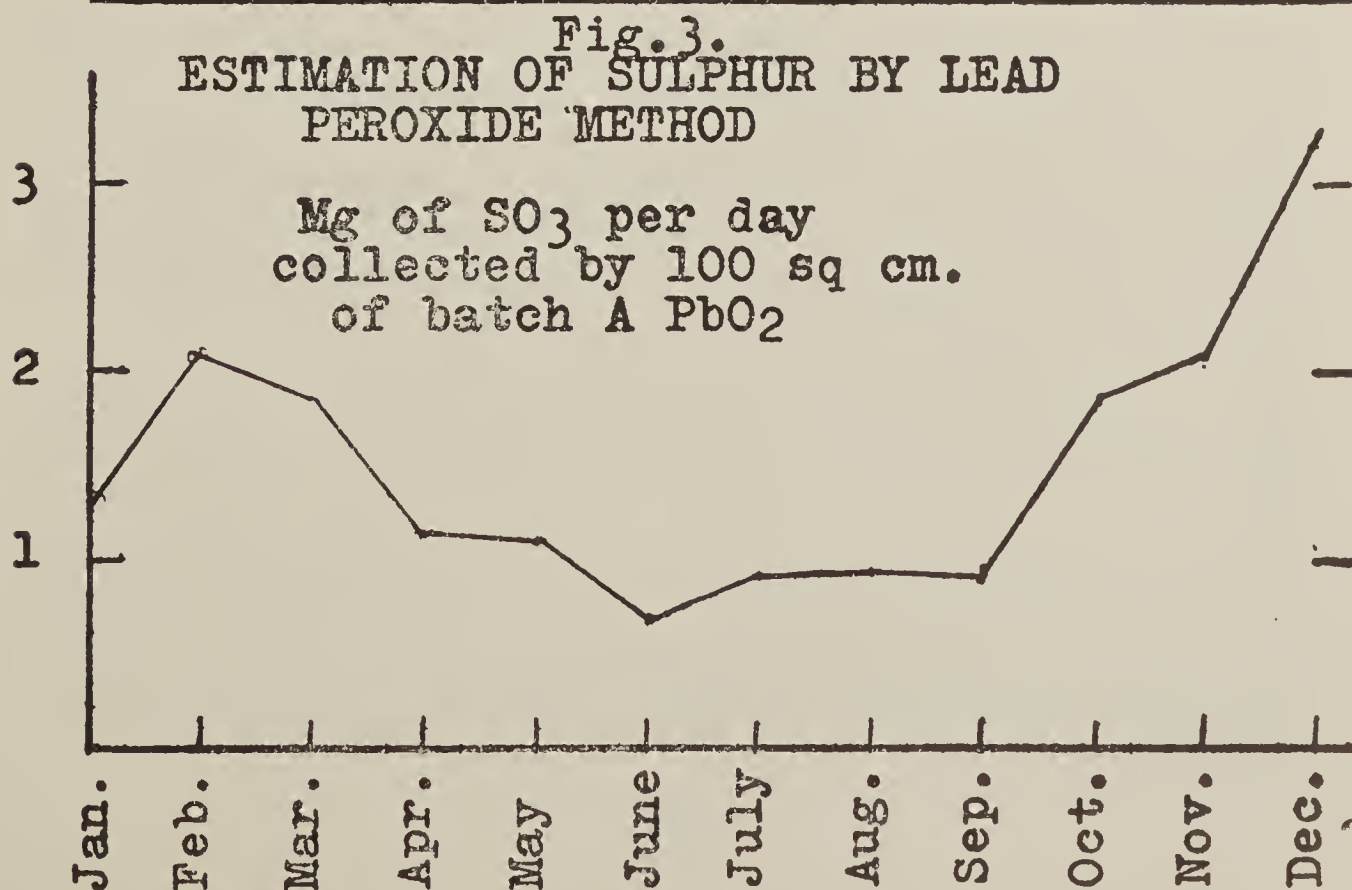
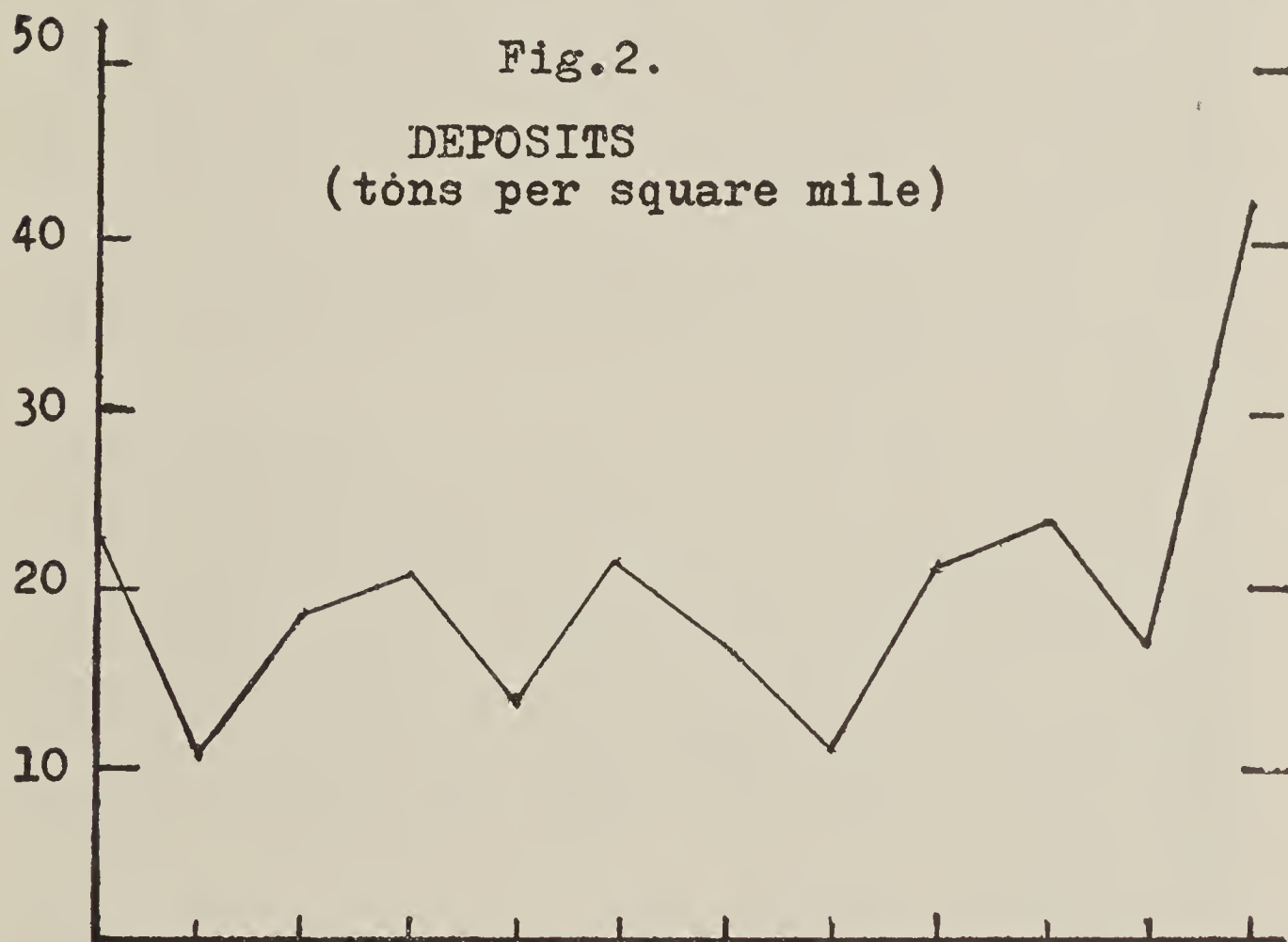
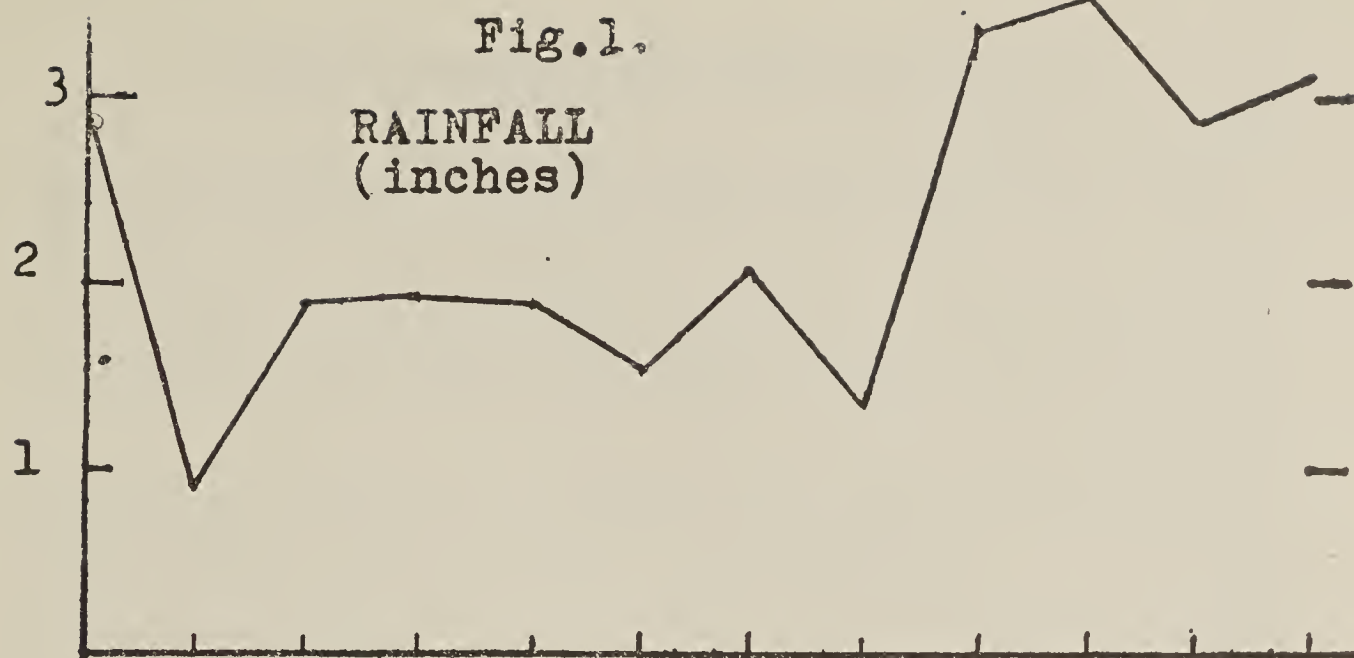
Figure 1 of the graph below shows the monthly variation of rainfall for 1952 when 29.62 inches were recorded.

Figure 2 shows the monthly deposits.

Figures 1 and 2 together show the relationship between rainfall and deposits. Heavy rainfall producing heavy deposits, although wind direction can and does affect this relationship insofar as our five stations are concerned.

Figure 3 shows the recordings of sulphur in the atmosphere month by month, the summer months being the lowest owing to the small amount of fuel burnt in domestic premises.





## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### (a) MILK SUPPLY—

The number of milk dealers other than cow-keepers on the register was one hundred and twenty four. Twelve Dealers Licences for the distribution of Tuberculin Tested Milk, twenty-six for the distribution of Pasteurised Milk, and one hundred for the distribution of Sterilised Milk were issued. One Pasteuriser's Licence and one Supplementary Pasteuriser's Licence were also issued.

One hundred and three samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the Liverpool City Bacteriologist for examination. All but one of these samples were found to be satisfactory, maintaining the high standard which was reached the previous year. In addition eleven samples of raw milk and one sample of pasteurised milk were subjected to biological tests, principally for tuberculosis. These all proved to be wholesome.

During the year sixty-five samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Liverpool City Analyst. There were forty-six legal samples which included five "appeal to cow" samples, and nineteen non-legal samples. The results of the analysis proved the milk to be of a high standard, there being only three samples below the quality demanded, and these were insufficiently below to justify legal action being taken. In these cases warnings were given.

Towards the end of the year I received a communication from the Area Milk Officer of the Ministry of Food, giving notification of, and requesting my assistance in, the carrying out of a survey under the provisions of Section 23 of the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, of an area which includes Widnes. Section 23 makes the use of a special designation obligatory for the purpose of all sales of milk by retail for human consumption, where the place of sale is in an area in which this sub-section is in operation, by virtue of the provisions of this part of this act.

### ICE-CREAM—

During the year the sale of ice-cream was carried out from ninety-nine premises. There were five manufacturers but only one firm produced on a large scale. These premises were found, upon inspection, to be kept in a clean condition and to be generally satisfactory. The appropriate sections of the Food and Drugs Act were strictly enforced and it was found that dealers and manufacturers were ready to co-operate with Sanitary Inspectors in this respect.

In the early summer the Minister of Food announced that in order to avoid a reduction in the supply of ice-cream it had become necessary to modify the standards for ice-cream which were introduced in March 1951. This was necessary due to the current shortage of milk powders and fats. The Minister accordingly decided to reduce the minimum fat content from 5% to 4% and the minimum non-fat content from 7½% to 5% and the Food Standards (Ice-Cream) (Amendment) Order 1952 came into operation with effect from the 7th July, 1952 laying down these new standards.



Nine samples were taken and submitted for analysis for the estimation of sugar and fat content and were found to be satisfactory. In addition, twenty-nine samples were sent to the Bacteriologist for examination and were classified by him as follows:-

Grade 1	—	10 samples	Grade 2	—	10 samples
Grade 3	—	8 „	Grade 4	—	1 „

Particular attention was again directed towards the cleanliness of road vehicles. These were generally well equipped to maintain as high a standard of hygienic handling as is possible under the circumstances and the department has tried to ensure that salesmen make full use of these facilities.

#### *FOOD PREPARATION—*

During the year eight hundred and sixty-nine visits were made to premises where food is stored, prepared or sold, and one hundred and twenty-one street trading and food delivery vehicles were inspected. It was necessary to serve notices in ten instances where the conditions did not comply with the Food and Drugs Act. These notices were all complied with. Warnings were also given to van drivers and owners with regard to the unclean state of the interior of vans, travelling with doors open, etc. In all cases these warnings had the desired effect and there can be little doubt that a good measure of co-operation exists between tradesmen and the health department with regard to the hygienic handling of food.

In order to further encourage the hygienic handling of food within the Borough it was decided to arrange for a series of illustrated lectures to be given on the subject. Food shops were circularised and advertisements in the local press invited those interested in the subject to attend. Five illustrated lectures and one film show were held in the Health Centre during November and December and were not altogether unsuccessful though the numbers attending were smaller than had been hoped. Much valuable experience was gained by the department which will prove useful when further courses of lectures are held.

#### *THE BOROUGH OF WIDNES (FOOD) ORDER 1952.*

The above Order made by the Minister of Health came into operation on the 28th March 1952 declaring Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act to be in force in the Borough, and repealing as regards this Borough, Section 116 of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act 1938.

Both these acts deal with the registration of premises in connection with the manufacture or sale of ice-cream or preserved foods, etc. The above Order merely clarifies the position.

During the year eighteen additional premises were registered for the manufacture or sale of ice-cream.

#### *LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (RIVERS BOARD AND GENERAL POWERS) ACT 1951, SECTION 14—*

During the year four Certificates of Registration as a Hawker and two Certificates of Registration of Premises were issued.

# UNSOUND FOOD

The following unwholesome foodstuffs were condemned during the year:-

Food	Tins, Jars, Pkts.	lbs.
Cooked ham ... ..		702
Luncheon Meat ... ..	213	
Fruit ... ..	803	67
Fish ... ..	43	
Vegetables ... ..	97	
Evaporated Milk ... ..	43	
Tomatoes ... ..	47	
Sausage ... ..	2	18
Cheese ... ..	9	62
Beef ... ..		8½
Sauce ... ..	5	
Jam ... ..	19	
Pork ... ..		198
Chicken ... ..	2	
Turkey ... ..		165
Jellied Veal ... ..		30
Brawn ... ..	1	6
Stewed Steak ... ..	20	
Synthetic Cream ... ..	2	
Spaghetti ... ..	11	
Pigs Liver ... ..		50
Tomato Juice ... ..	40	
Tongue ... ..	8	
Irish Stew ... ..	1	
Soup ... ..	38	
Flour ... ..		25
Sweets ... ..	180	35
Fondent ... ..		28
Jelly ... ..	49	32
Desiccated Coconut ...	54	42
Bacon ... ..		2
Pork Butts ... ..		16
Biscuits ... ..	6	6
Soreen ... ..	9	
Baby Food ... ..	3	
Cake Mixture ... ..		18
Oats ... ..		12¾
Hors d'oeuvres ... ..	1	
Sandwich Spread ... ..	1	
Macaroni ... ..		1
Nuts ... ..		4
Chicken Giblets ... ..	4	
Pudding ... ..	1	
Kidney ... ..	1	



## FOOD SAMPLING

The following statement shows the number of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Acts 1938-50 and results received from the Analyst.

Sample of	No. of Samples	Genuine	Not Genuine	Remarks
Milk ... ..	64	57	7*	*Inc. 5 "Appeal to Cow" Samples
Salmon Spread	1	1		
Pork Sausage ...	24	8	16*	*11 non-legal, 5 "slightly def."
Cake Flour ...	1	1		
Mixed Spice ...	1	1		
Baking Powder	1	1		
White Pepper ...	1	1		
Beef Sausage ...	14	13	1*	*Non-legal sample
Fish Cakes ...	6	6		
Ice Cream ...	9	9		
Sponge Mixture	1	1		
Pancake & York-shire Pudding Mixture ...	1	1		
Fish Paste ...	2	2		
Coffee Extract...	1	1		
Concentrated Junket Rennett	1	1		
Meat Paste ...	1	1		
Aspirin ... ..	1	1		

## HOUSING

*Number of New Houses erected during the year—*

Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
(i) By the local authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	132
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	24

*Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year—*

1	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	2,229
	(b)	No. of inspections made for the purpose	7,335
2	(a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ... ..	14
	(b)	No. of inspections made for purpose ...	28

3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	63
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*Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice—*

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	608
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*Action under Statutory Powers during the year—*

(a) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	502
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(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	423
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(b) By local authority in default of owners					Nil
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(b) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...				3
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(ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...			3
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(c) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	—
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*Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding—*

(a) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	320
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(b) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	171
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(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases					701
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